

REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13 have been amended and claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 12 and 14-45 have been canceled as shown on pp. 2-6 of the Reply. As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 7, 9-11, and 13 include allowable subject matter. These claims have been amended to incorporate their respective root limitations, and the rest of the claims have been canceled, without prejudice. No new matter was added.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-45 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13, as amended herein, are now believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101, thereby rendering the outstanding rejection moot.

Given the allowable subject matter, however, should the rejection under § 101 be maintained, in order to ensure speedy prosecution, the undersigned respectfully requests to be contacted so that Applicants can expeditiously resolve any remaining issues with respect to claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 14-19, 26-30, 37-42 and 44 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 14-19, 26-30, 37-42 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng (US 6,366,934). As mentioned, claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13 have been amended to include subject matter indicated to be allowable over Cheng whereas the remaining claims have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As mentioned, claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13 were indicated as including allowable subject matter, but objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Based on the indication in the Official Action, claims 4, 7, 9-11 and 13 have been amended to explicitly recite such allowable subject matter in independent form including all of the limitations of any respective base claims and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP1470USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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